

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of Audrey Lynn Leinoff. Audrey was abducted from New York when she was 4 years old by her noncustodial mother, Marcia Leinoff, on May 25, 1988. The international criminal police organization also known as Interpol confirmed that both Audrey and Ms. Leinoff entered Israel on June 19, 1988. Although there has been no confirmation of their ever departing Israel, their actual presence currently and location in Israel are unknown. Audrey's maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvia Bloom, are also believed to be involved with the abduction.

In addition to custody from the United States, Audrey's father was given sole custody in January 1991 by the Jerusalem district court. Mr. Leinoff, despite having custody, has not had any contact with his daughter since her abduction.

Mr. Speaker, children like Audrey deserve to have a relationship with both their parents, and parents deserve a relationship with their children. This House should make sure that the most sacred of bonds, that between a parent and a child, is preserved. We must bring our children home.

GAS PRICES ON THE RISE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, gasoline is \$2.20 a gallon. That is right, \$2.20. Now, if that is not enough to bust your buns, Congress gives billions of dollars to OPEC countries, and they rip us off. To boot, the domestic oil companies are gouging us so bad, we are all passing gas.

Beam me up. I think it is time to tell the OPEC countries, "The next time you are attacked, call BP and Rotary. Don't call us." I also think it is time to pass H.R. 3902, which imposes a \$100 million fine for any American oil company that unreasonably gouges us and raises prices. Enough is enough.

I yield back the fact that while Uncle Sam is killing Microsoft, we are getting our oil changed big time.

SIERRA LEONE

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the situation in Sierra Leone, a marvelous country, a country with great promise, a country that provided freedom for slaves many years ago. Today it is in utter chaos. Revolution is taking place. But what is unique about this is that it is not a po-

litical revolution, even though it pretends to be that, but it is basically a band of bandits trying to take over the country so that they can have access to the diamonds and the diamond mines. They already have access to many of them and they are using those diamonds to finance the revolution.

The rebels are incredibly inhumane. Most of their captives have been released but only after a hand, a leg, a foot, or an arm have been chopped off and amputated.

The inhumanity is such that last week, an 8-month-old baby had his arm amputated when his mother was captured as part of the revolution. Imagine the rebels amputated the arm of an 8-month-old baby!

We must work with the British and the U.N. to stop this. We must act in a meaningful, humane way, and not back down from this as we have been backing down for a decade. It is time for our State Department and our President to act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6 p.m. today.

REQUIRING FRAUD AUDIT OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4079) to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a comprehensive fraud audit of the Department of Education, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4079

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMPREHENSIVE FRAUD AUDIT OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(a) AUDIT.—Within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct and complete a fraud audit of selected accounts at the Department of Education that the Comptroller General determines to be particularly susceptible to waste, fraud, and abuse; and

(2) submit a report setting forth the results of the audit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4079.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4079 is a bill that in many ways we would probably rather not be dealing with today. We are dealing with this issue because of the Department of Education's inability to receive a clean audit. Each year, the Department of Education, like other Federal agencies, is required to undergo an audit. For fiscal years 1998 and 1999, the Department of Education could not receive a clean audit opinion. In plain English what that means is that the financial analysts who have gone in and taken a look at the books as prepared by the Department of Education do not have a high degree of confidence that the figures and the numbers that are reported in their financial statements are an accurate reflection of the actual conditions at the Department of Education.

Now, there are a number of reasons why this has occurred. There are also a number of instances where this lack of financial control has exhibited itself. One of the reasons why the Department is unable to get a clean audit is that it lacks an accounting system that meets generally accepted standards or complies with Federal financial management standards. That is why it could not get a clean set of books for the last 2 years.

The disappointing thing here, and I think this is why we need to take this step today, is that the Department also does not expect to have an effective account system in place until at least October 2001, more than a year out. Thus, the fiscal year 2000 and 2001 audits will most likely result in the same results as 1998 and 1999, an inability to get a clean audit.

Now, it would be one thing just to say they cannot get a clean set of books. It is another when the General Accounting Office and other groups have identified that because of the weaknesses within the financial control system, this Department has experienced a number of cases of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Let me just highlight a couple of these. The Inspector General and the General Accounting Office have identified a number of examples. One is that the Department over the last 2 years has issued about \$175 million in duplicate payments to grantees. These payments continue to occur despite the Department's avowed attempts to crack down on them.

What is a duplicate payment? Well, we have here a list of duplicate payments that occurred in October of 1999.